

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island

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**Seven-year prison sentence for felon who had a gun and
100 rounds of ammunition**

A federal judge has sentenced **William Williams**, 30, of Providence, to 84 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. In May 2006, Providence detectives found a Tec-9 handgun and 100 rounds of nine-millimeter ammunition in Williams' apartment on Lancashire Street.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Senior U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed yesterday in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In October, Williams, who has a prior robbery conviction, pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee said that the government could prove that, on May 18, 2006, after Williams had allegedly sold cocaine to a man, Providence Police narcotics detectives executed a search warrant at his third floor apartment. As the detectives were executing the warrant, Williams drove up to the house, and they detained him. They found a bag of cocaine on Williams and cocaine trafficking materials in the kitchen of the apartment.

In a closet, detectives found an Intratec nine-millimeter handgun, a magazine with 35 live rounds, and a bag containing 65 additional rounds. Williams later told police that he'd bought the gun for \$300.

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In addition to Providence Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Chafee prosecuted it as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, ATF, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal gun offenders in Rhode Island have been sentenced to a total of more than 800 years in federal prison.

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